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O'Hare

:55 O'Hare was born to Michael and "Minnie" Heaney O'Hare in Coorag, Newrytown, Ireland.

2:35 O'Hare's father owned eighteen acres of land and later expanded his holdings with money that the father earned working in the U.S. in Montana and Sacramento.

4:05 When Michael O'Hare came to Sacramento in 1921 he obtained a job at Black's Package Company.

6:05 O'Hare had trained to be a school master, but at the time of receiving his diploma he was required to give a vote of confidence to the King of England. He refused and became involved in the Irish Rebellion.

8:30 O'Hare took a year off from fighting to search for his father in America.

10:20 With the war over in Ireland, O'Hare wanted to travel, and so moved from Sacramento to McGill, Nevada, where he worked for a copper smelting company.

12:00 By 1925 he was head bookkeeper and married, at which point he returned to Sacramento to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

15:00 The Ancient Order of Hibernians, which O'Hare joined in 1931, kept the Irish together in Sacramento. O'Hare had initially been unsure about joining the A.O.H. because the organization's Irish branch was considered to be friendly to the British.

16:25 O'Hare describes Terry Mulligan and his involvement in the A.O.H.

18:45 In Sacramento the A.O.H. was a benevolent society which provided insurance for its members.

21:05 The A.O.H. raised money from dances for orphans and the Sisters of Mercy.

24:20 The A.O.H. has a plot at St. Joseph's cemetery.

25:00 The A.O.H. used to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade [in the nineteenth century].

28:00 Those Irish who emmigrated after 1916 were Sinn Fein and therefore more radical than the A.O.H., Board of Erin.

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:30 O'Hare  
A.O.H. meetings usually ended with singing and accordion playing.

1:10 In the 1920s rebel songs, such as "The Soldier's Song" which became the Irish national anthem, were popular with the A.O.H.

2:60 Cooke  
James Cooke was born to Henry and Julia Fitzgerald Cooke on a forty acre farm in County Kerry, Ireland. In 1908 at the age of thirteen, he was orphaned.

5:05 Cooke was often kept at home to help work the farm and eventually dropped out of school.

6:30 Cooke emigrated to the United States and in 1927 joined the Sacramento Fire Department.

11:35 Only about fifteen of 130 men in the Fire Department were Irish at that time.

13:20 Cooke started as a hoseman and eventually became chief engineer.

16:10 Terry Mulligan personally enlisted Cooke into the A.O.H.

19:05 Cooke had spent a lot of time at the Y.M.C.A preparing for the Fire Department's athletic examination. [At this point in the interview he demonstrates a weight lifting test that he practiced]

21:00 Other parts of the test involved a quarter mile run and the carrying of a hundred pound sack of sand up a ladder. Cooke practiced at Southside Park sometimes.

26:30 Cooke speculates that the difficult exam kept many of the Irish out of the Fire Department. Many may also have had better jobs. He was asked by people to help them prepare for the test, but none passed it.

28:05 [end]

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1:00 O'Hare's grandparents [who lived in the northern part of Ireland] spoke Gaelic. Exposed to their influence, O'Hare then improved his Gaelic in a Gaelic college in 1915 and 1916.

3:55 O'Hare recites the "Lord's Prayer" and the "Hail Mary" in Gaelic.

6:25 O'Hare attended a national school and then taught two years as an untrained assistant. O'Hare next received a King's scholarship to St. Patrick's Training College in Dublin, where he stayed two years, during which time [1916-1921] he became involved in the Anglo-Irish conflict.

9:00 The Irish Republican Army soldiers, called "men on the run," were sent to fight in areas where people did not know them. O'Hare carried a handgun sent by a man in Stockton, California.

11:30 Most of the fighters were of ages sixteen to twenty-two. O'Hare had joined the Irish Volunteers when he was fourteen and the I.R.A. with the 1916 Rising.

15:00 O'Hare came to the U.S. via Quebec in order to search for his father, who had been here since about 1912 and had lost contact with the family.

17:00 O'Hare eventually arrived in Sacramento where an uncle lived and subsequently located his father. O'Hare arranged employment with the Southern Pacific Railroad for his father and found work for himself at Black's Package Company.

19:00 The 1922 truce in Ireland freed O'Hare from his obligation to the I.R.A. He then found work in McGill, Nevada [where he stayed until about 1926].

22:30 O'Hare's first impression of Sacramento was of the heat. The town reminded him of Ireland because of the trees.

24:00 The Irish would gather in Sacramento at ceilights [also spelled ceilidhi], which were parties, sometimes informal and sometimes sponsored by the A.O.H. (Ancient Order of Hibernians). Immigration was high in the years 1922 to 1924, and this sustained the A.O.H.

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26:35 Often an Irish immigrant to Sacramento would seek out the priest's house. The priest, usually Irish, would contact Terry Mulligan, who would try to get the young man a job, usually with the Southern Pacific Railroad. Some Irish women also immigrated. One such woman, Nellie Griffin, found work at the Catholic Presbytery.

28:35 The young men usually lived in boarding houses, the young women usually lived with relatives.

29:10 In 1921 O'Hare stayed with his uncle in a rooming house at 12th and K Streets, and then rented with other Irishmen a house at 7th and N Streets and arranged for a Mrs. Taylor to open a boarding house next door.

## Index Side B

:55 The A.O.H. was originally associated with the A.O.H., Board of Erin, but in the early 1900s they separated and the American branch became known as the A.O.H. in America, Inc.

2:30 The A.O.H. in America is based in New York but elects presidents from divisions all over the country.

5:00 O'Hares's research in nineteenth century Hibernian minutes indicates that Irish freedom was the most important issue to them. He believes that the Irish love of parties (ceilights) bound them together.

8:30 O'Hare remembers some second generation Irish-Americans becoming involved in local politics.

9:20 O'Hare had married and in 1926 returned to Sacramento because he did not want to raise a family in a copper mining town.

10:25 Peter Mitchell got him work at the S.P. He started as a laborer, but an Irish [foreman] subsequently got him transferred into the office as a price clerk. O'Hare stayed with the S.P. for forty-two years.

11:50 O'Hare made six trips home to Ireland; the first was in 1951 and the third, when he retired in 1965, was for one and a half years.

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13:30 It was easy for O'Hare to get a leave of absence from the S.P. for such trips home. Furthermore, "twenty-year men" had free transportation to New York and twenty-five percent off ship fares.

16:20 Some time after their 1926 return to Sacramento, the O'Hare's moved to 35th Street in [then fashionable] Oak Park. Prominent neighbors were the Ryle family, who ran a tavern.

18:30 A Mr. Mulderrig played the melodian often at Ryle's Irish Tavern. He also entertained at the Hibernian dances at the [Memorial] Auditorium.

20:50 Up to two thousand people attended the St. Patrick's Day Ball there.

22:15 Even some Italians and some Protestant Irish were involved in the Ball.

24:15 In the 1930s there was an annual picnic with several bagpipe bands. It was attended by five to eight thousand people.

26:25 The picnics stopped during World War II, after which people changed, moved around, and got married. Now the average age of a Sacramento Hibernian is in the seventies.

27:25 O'Hare had difficulty becoming a citizen. It took nine years and the help of a politician. Government agents checked his California and Quebec contacts to see if he was involved in Irish national activities. He is proud of his U.S. citizenship.